

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** April 13, 2006  
**Contact:** Trooper J.J. Gundermann, Tacoma  
(253) 536-4386 – office  
(253) 606-1796 – cell/pager

## **“State Trooper Struck By Truck In Pierce County Collision”**

A Washington State Trooper was injured after being struck by a truck westbound SR 512 at Fruitland Ave near Puyallup. The motorcycle Trooper, a 13 year veteran of the Patrol, will be released from the hospital today after what was first thought to have been serious injuries.

The April 13<sup>th</sup> incident took place at approximately 8:33 a.m. when 41 year-old Motorcycle-Trooper Dan Hefton had stopped 28 year-old Jessica K Sattler of Puyallup for speeding in a red 2003 Kia Sedona westbound SR 512 at Fruitland Ave.. near Puyallup. As Trooper Hefton was at the passenger side door of the Kia, a 2004 Nissan Utility Box Van with the gross vehicle weight rating of 19,995 lbs. driven by 25 year-old John Drew Ledford of Mineral, Wa. lost control and struck the trooper’s motorcycle then struck Trooper Hefton and the Kia Sedona.

Trooper Hefton sustained significant injuries and was immediately transported to Tacoma General Hospital. Sattler and a 4 year-old female toddler in the Kia sustained minor injuries and were transported to Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup and released. Investigators believe Ledford was driving the Box Van with 44 year-old Sarah Anne Jackson of Tacoma when they passed another State Trooper on a motorcycle who was pulling into traffic east of Trooper Hefton. Ledford, who has a suspended driver’s license, then attempted to switched positions with Jackson, the right front passenger, in fear of being stopped by the other Trooper. In the process of the switch, the Box Van lost control striking Trooper Hefton and the Kia Sedona.

Troopers did find Marijuana and Paraphernalia in the Box Van Ledford was driving but do not believe he was impaired. Troopers did arrest Ledford and he was booked into the Pierce County Jail for Reckless Driving, Possession of Marijuana / Paraphernalia, Driving with a Suspended License, and on an outstanding Warrant.

